



# “Partner Experiences”

## Pioneer Natural Resources, USA

Presented by James Meier

Processors Technology Transfer Workshop  
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# How Did Pioneer Get Involved?

- ★ Pioneer formed in 1997 as a merger between Parker & Parsley Petroleum Co. and MESA Inc.
- ★ Pioneer was originally contacted in 1998 by The Cadmus Group, Inc.
- ★ In July 1999, Pioneer began reviewing benefits of membership in STAR



**PIONEER**  
NATURAL RESOURCES

# How Did Pioneer Get Involved?

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- ★ Weighing Pro's and Con's
  - Audit potential
  - Compliance with EPA regulations
  
- ★ Pioneer contacted several member companies who expressed positive support for the program

# How Did Pioneer Get Involved?

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- ★ In the end, there were only advantages:
  - Demonstrate Pioneer's commitment
  - Continue to identify and reduce air emissions
  - Share information with other companies
  - Reap financial rewards
- ★ Total management support!

# How Did Pioneer Get Involved?

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- ★ July 25, 2000 – Pioneer Natural Resources USA signed Memorandum of Understanding for Production Companies
- ★ September 18, 2000 – Pioneer Natural Resources USA signed Memorandum of Understanding for Gathering and Processing Companies, becoming a Charter Partner

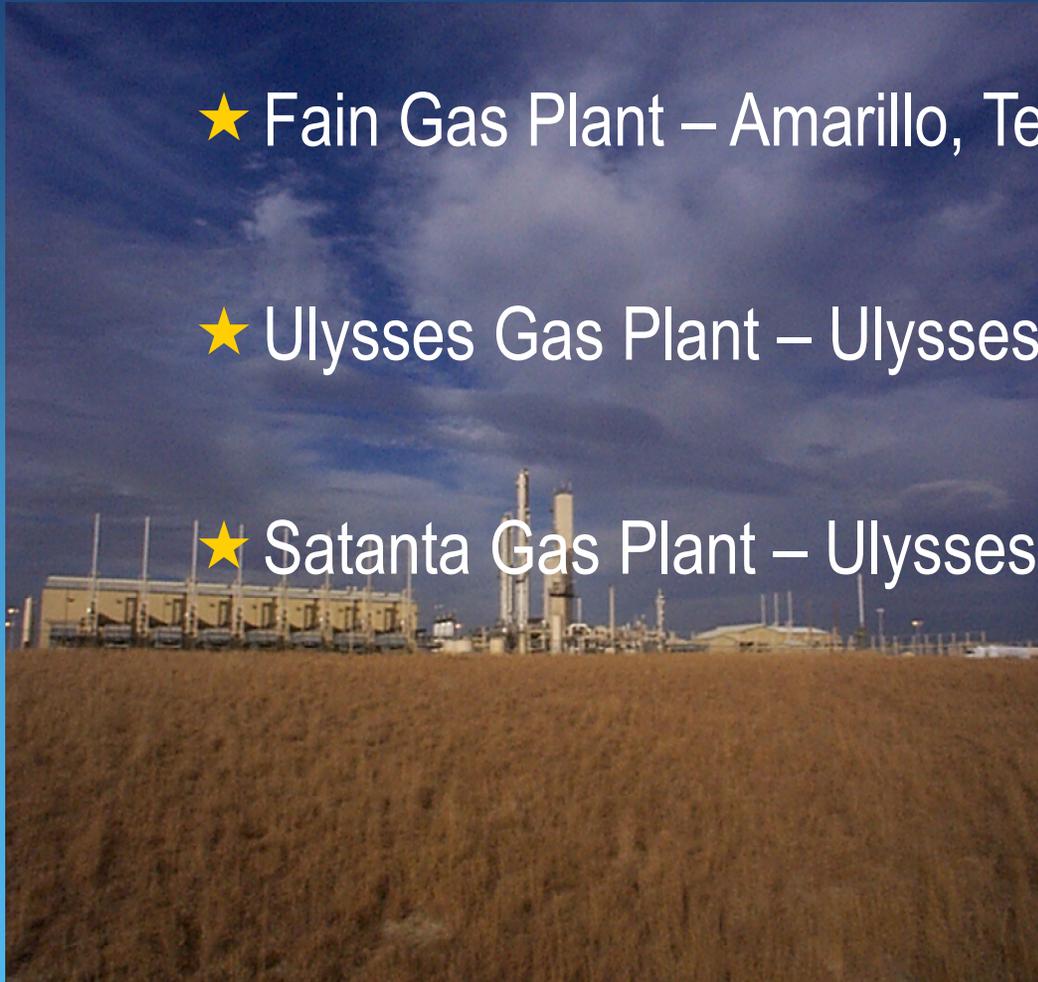
# Pioneer Natural Resources' Gas Facilities



★ Fain Gas Plant – Amarillo, Texas

★ Ulysses Gas Plant – Ulysses, Kansas

★ Satanta Gas Plant – Ulysses, Kansas



# Best Management Practices (BMP's)



- ★ Jointly identified by EPA and the industry as cost-effective options for reducing methane emissions
  - Replace gas pneumatics with instrument air systems
  - Install flash tank separators on glycol dehydrators
  - Implement directed inspection and maintenance at gas plants and booster stations

# BMP Implementation at Pioneer Facilities



- ★ Instrument air system already existed at Fain and Satanta. Instrument air compressor installed at Ulysses in September 2002
- ★ Glycol flash tank separators already existed at Fain, Ulysses, and Satanta
- ★ VOC detection performed at Fain, Ulysses, and Satanta. The results are used to repair leaks. Leaks at all sites have been reduced to less than 2% of all points tested

# PRO's at Fain

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## ★ 1996

- Installed turbine speed controllers (59 Mcf/yr)
- Installed plant recycle valve (180 Mcf/yr)
- DCS upgrade (13 Mcf/yr)

## ★ 1997

- Install heat tracing (58 Mcf/yr)

# PRO's at Fain

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★ 1999

- Install blowdown pipe to flare (12 Mcf/yr)

★ 2000

- Install condensate pipeline (31,238 Mcf/yr)
- Switch to commercial power (180 Mcf/yr)
- Adjust gas regulator (4,138 Mcf/yr)

# PRO's at Fain

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## ★ 2001

- Modify compressor logic (34 Mcf/yr)
- Larger stabilizer reboiler (2,901 Mcf/yr)
- Vapor recovery on slug catcher (3,796 Mcf/yr)

## ★ 2002

- BTEX removal (641 Mcf/yr)

# PRO's at Ulysses

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★ 1990

➤ Install separator (7,814 Mcf/yr)

★ 1997

➤ Flash separator piping (521 Mcf/yr)

➤ Storage tank piping (260 Mcf/yr)

# PRO's at Ulysses

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★ 2001

➤ BTEX removal (398 Mcf/yr)

★ 2002

➤ Remove burn pit (4,721 Mcf/yr)

➤ Convert to instrument air (588 Mcf/yr)

# PRO's at Satanta

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★ 1995

➤ Repair NRU (163,054 Mcf/yr)

★ 1999

➤ Install amine unit (78,300 Mcf/yr)

# PRO's at Satanta

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## ★ 2000

- Convert compressor blowdown (1,038 Mcf/yr)
- Pipe TEG flash to amine flare header (2,365 Mcf/yr)

## ★ 2001

- BTEX removal (134 Mcf/yr)

# Fain Starting Air System

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- ★ Convert starting gas to starting air.
- ★ Starting air system already existed for older reciprocating engines (small air users)
- ★ System would be expanded to include all engines at the plant, including large horsepower reciprocating engines and turbines
- ★ Project was presented to management and approved as a STAR project

# Fain Starting Air System



## ★ Capital Expenditures:

- Air Compressor
- Air Receiver
- Piping
- Regulator and PSV modifications as necessary

## ★ Estimated Methane Reduction:

- 9,798 Mcf/yr



# STAR Results (1990-2004)



	Methane Reduction (Mcf/year)	Value of Gas Saved (\$/year)
Fain	53,048	\$159,144
Ulysses	14,562	\$43,686
Satanta	244,891	\$734,673
<b>Total</b>	<b>312,501</b>	<b>\$937,503</b>

## Additional Accomplishments

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- ★ Earned STAR Rookie of the Year in 2001 for strong initial program implementation
- ★ Presented “Partner Experiences” at 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Implementation Workshop in October, 2002
- ★ Earned Processing Partner of the Year award for 2002
- ★ Host/Presenter for Methane Emissions Reduction Technology Transfer Workshop in 2003
- ★ Participated with EPA on Partner Profile published in February 2004



# The Future of STAR at Pioneer

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- ★ Current projects include:
  - Converting starting gas to starting air for compressors at Satanta
  - Evaluating with manufacturers if additional compressors can avoid being blown down during trip/shut-down to prevent emissions to atmosphere